



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Corps preparing spillway weir for Lower Monumental Dam

WALLA WALLA, Wash., – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is preparing its third removable spillway weir to help fish migrate downstream to the ocean.

The spillway weir is a floating structure that allows juvenile salmon and steelhead to bypass lower Snake River dams near the water surface, providing a more efficient and less stressful option than traditional dam passage routes. The massive, coated-steel structure is about 120-feet high, 80-feet wide and 70-feet deep, in the installed position, and weighs about 2-million pounds.

The project under construction is the third spillway weir built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District. It is currently being constructed by Advanced American Construction, Inc., and Oregon Iron Works, Inc. and will be installed at Lower Monumental Dam on the lower Snake River in the fall.

A prototype spillway weir was installed at Lower Granite Dam on the lower Snake River in 2001 and the second was installed at Ice Harbor Dam in 2005.

The design of a spillway weir is different from existing spillways which open their gates 50 feet below the water surface at the face of the dam and pass juvenile fish under high pressure and high velocities. The spillway weir passes juvenile salmon and steelhead over a raised spillway crest, similar to a waterslide. Juvenile salmon and steelhead pass the dam near the water's surface under lower accelerations and lower pressures, providing a more efficient and less stressful route while reducing migration delays at the dam.

In addition to the removable spillway weirs, the Corps Walla Walla District is pioneering research and development of temporary spillway weirs (TSW) to aid fish. These TSWs are smaller than conventional removable spillway weirs and stand 50-feet high, 35-feet wide and weigh about 250-thousand pounds.

Two temporary spillway weirs were fitted into spillway bays at McNary Dam, near Umatilla, Ore. in March and now are undergoing biological testing to determine the best location and flow to attract juvenile fish. Information gained from testing will help the Corps' biologist, scientist and engineers in designing permanent fish bypass systems at Columbia River dams.

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